Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 5 Chapter 20

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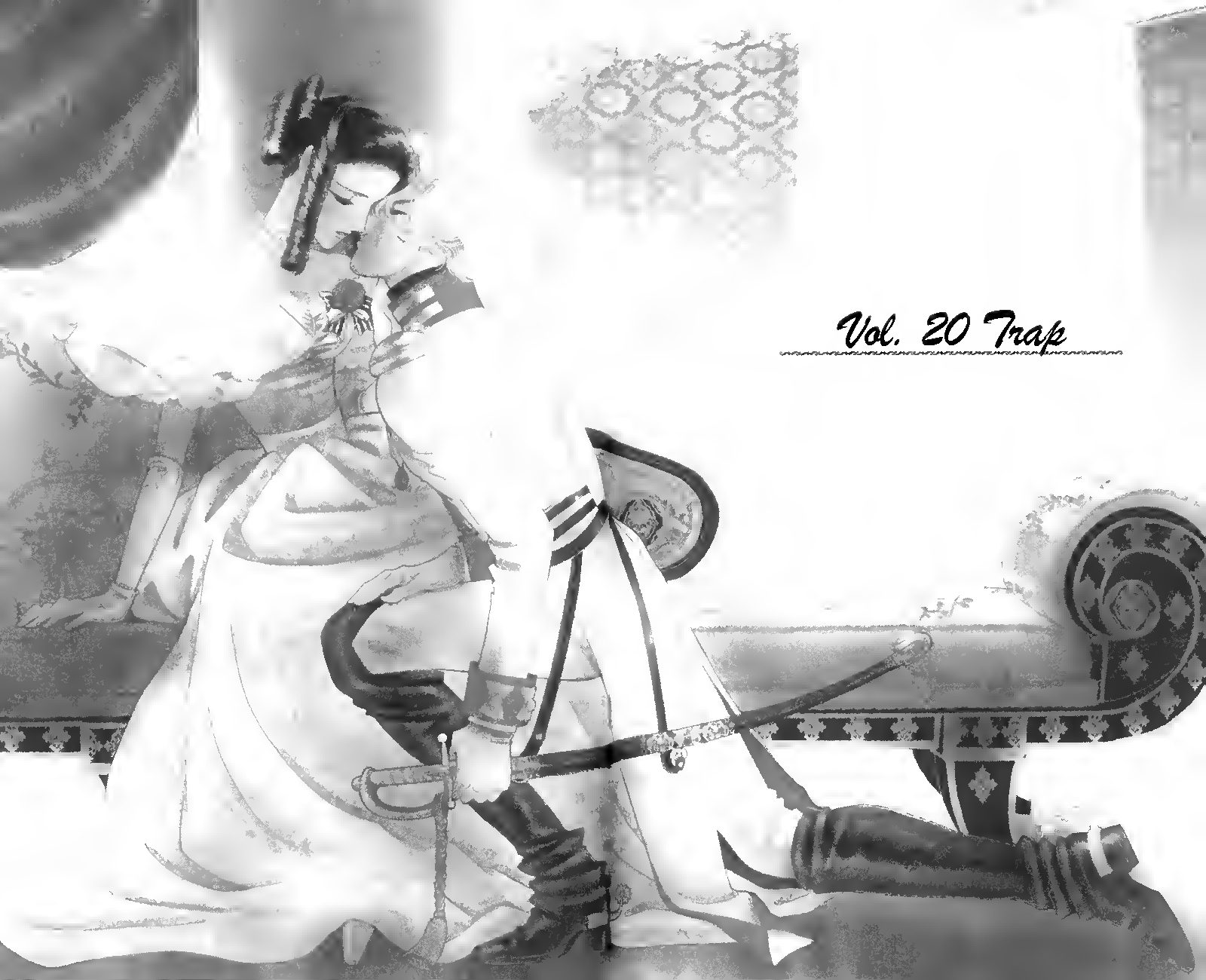


Vol. 20 Trap

"To keep them from eloping,
for your son's sake,
sent Mr. Pushkin an anonymous letter...
warning him indirectly."

4th of November
AMBASSADOR HEECKEREN
YOU WISH FOR FIRST LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES TO STAND ON THE NIGHT GUARD, STARTING TONIGHT?
IT'S SO SUDDEN
Imperial Guard Cavalry headquarters
IT'S DUE TO UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES...
THAT OCCURRED EARLY THIS MORNING
WELL, IF HIS FATHER ASKS, IT CAN'T BE HELPED
FOR HOW LONG?
FIRST LIEUTENANT HAS BEEN COMMITTING SMALL INFRINGEMENTS OF DUTY NOW AND THEN
THIS CAN SERVE AS HIS PUNISHMENT
I SEE..
I NEED TO BUY SOME TIME
JUST FOUR OR FIVE DAYS. EVEN JUST ONE DAY IS ENOUGH.
FIRST LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES!
YES.

YOU ARE ORDERED TO STAND ON THE NIGHT GUARD FOR FIVE NIGHTS, STARTING TONIGHT.
WHY SUDDENLY FIVE NIGHTS?
EXCUSE ME, POLETIKA.
COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE THIS TO YOUR WIFE, IDALIA?
I NEED HER TO HELP ME DELIVER A MESSAGE ... TO MRS. PUSHKIN.
OF COURSE.
GOOD MORNING
OH, ALEXANDER SERGEEVICH
AH

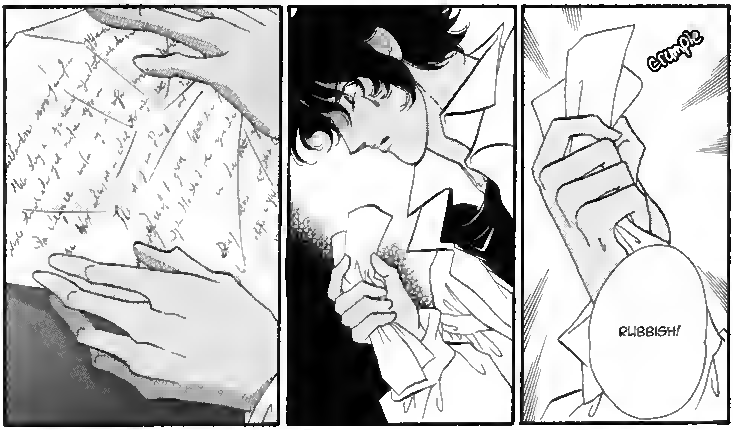
CALL NATALIA OUT.
Y...YES.
IDALIA POLETIKA.
Yes.
IS NATALIA AT HOME?
THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY SHE FORGOT SOMETHING IN MY HOUSE.
SINCE I WAS ALREADY OUT, I BROUGHT IT.
MASTER, THE LETTERS THAT ARRIVED THIS MORNING.
THEY WERE DELIVERED BY THE POSTAL SERVICE THAT WAS INAUGURATED IN THE CAPITAL RECENTLY.
IDALIA.
NOT PARTICULARLY.
DO YOU DISLIKE ME SO MUCH?
BECAUSE I WAS COLD TO YOU WHEN YOU WOOED ME BEFORE?
I WAS ONLY JOKING
YES.
I MUST GO NOW.
HERE IS THAT THING YOU FORGOT.
A LETTER?
WHAT?
IF NATALIA HEARS,
YOU WILL BE TROUBLED TOO, RIGHT?

kyaaa
kyaaa
kyaa
WHAT S..
THIS?

The Grand Cross Commanders and Chevaliers of the Most Serene Order of Cuckolds, convened in plenary assembly under the Presidency of the venerable Grand Master of the Order, His Excellency D. L. Naryshkin,

have unanimously elected M. Alexander Pushkin coadjutor of the Grand Master of the Order of Cuckolds and historiographer of the Order.

Permanent Secretary Count J. Borch

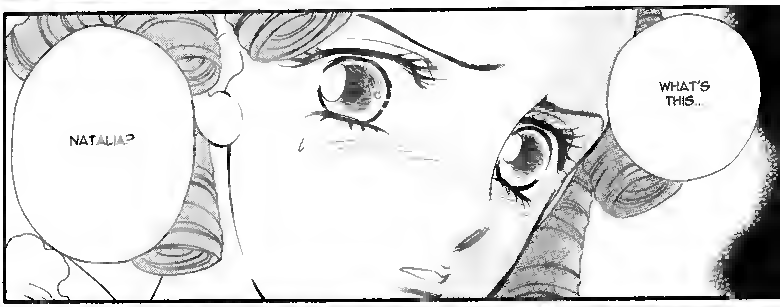


LET THEM IN
EVEN COUNT SOLLOGUB
SHE SAYS SHE HAS RECEIVED A DREADFUL LETTER
MRS. KHITROVO HAS ARRIVED. SHE LOOKS VERY TROUBLED.

SASHKA GIVE IT BACK!
HEY, WAIT!
The day before yesterday, I rushed things, following my own feelings.
I forced my wishes on you, who know nothing
Natalie, unexpectedly I have been ordered to stand on the night guard for five nights starting tonight

Be quiet
Dad has some guests.
Ok?
It is a thing that will cause great problems for us, especially you.
It is fine if you cannot think about me.
Please, think about your own happiness first.
However... Let me wish in a corner of my heart that there is hope for me.
MOMMY?
SORRY FOR NOT LISTENING TO WHAT YOU SAID
MOM, WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
Yours forever, Georges D' Anthes
I CAN'T
THERE IS NO WAY I'M ABANDONING SASHA AND MY CHILDREN-

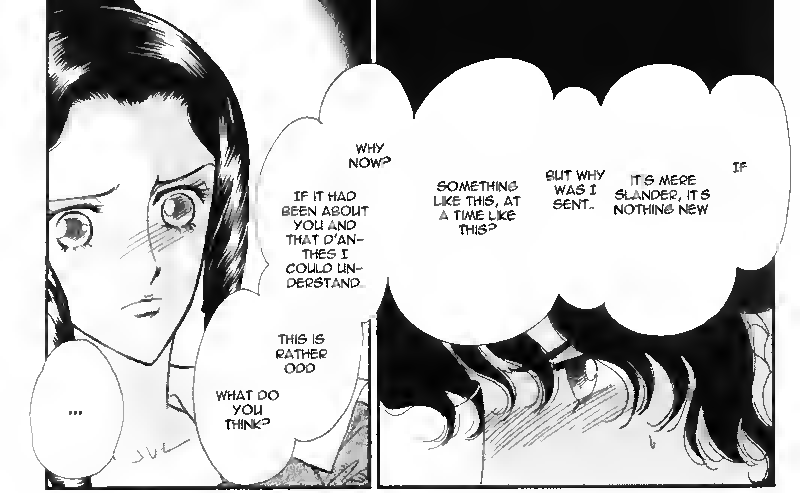
NATALIA IS ACTING STRANGE
NATALIA, YOU DROPPED SOMETHING
THE LETTER THAT IDALIA GAVE HER..
Let me go.
struggle
Mom you are a weakling.


NATALIA?
WHAT'S THIS..

WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO? IT CAN'T BE
AND WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY "GREAT PROBLEMS"?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS LETTER?
AH

Crack
Crash
GIVE IT BACK TO ME!
slap
ALEXANDRA YOU ARE MEA..
I WANT TO KNOW TOO
WHAT REPLY ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE TO D'ANTHES?
WHY ARE YOU SO INDECI-SIVE?
HAVEN'T YOU DECIDED ALREADY?
HE WAS ASKING ME TO GIVE HIM A REPLY SOON. I TOLD HIM THAT I NEEDED SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT
WHAT WAS IT?
WHAT IF MR PUSHKIN HAD READ IT!!
WERE YOU PLANNING TO ELOPE?
Mmpf
YOU ARE WRONG
THEN WHAT WAS IT?

IT SEEM LIKE IT WAS A SERIOUS MATTER
SOMETHING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN IN A FEW DAYS.
HE READ IT...
ALL OF THEM HAVE THE SAME CONTENT.
MRS. KHITROVO AND COUNT SOLLOGUB BROUGHT THEIRS JUST NOW
MY FRIENDS AND I RECEIVED THIS SIMULTANEOUSLY THIS MORNING
THEN THE LETTER INSINUATES SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN TSAR NICHOLAS I AND NATALIA?
I SUPPOSE THE WRITER, I. BORCH, MUST BE ONE WHO ENDURED THE SAME SITUATION
OF TSAR ALEXANDER
FAMED AS THE HUSBAND OF A MISTRESS
THE LETTER INCLUDES THE NAME D.L. NARYSHKIN,
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.


...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THIS IS RATHER ODD
IF IT HAD BEEN ABOUT YOU AND THAT D'AN-THES I COULD UN-DERSTAND.
WHY NOW?
IF
IT IS MERE SLANDER, IT'S NOTHING NEW
BUT WHY WAS I SENT..
SOMETHING LIKE THIS, AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

I...
AND?
I GET IT NOW

THIS IS NO GOOD. I HAVE TO SEPARATE MYSELF FROM GEORGES D'ANTHES...
NATALIA
I'M SO HAPPY
WHY CAN'T I BE HONESTLY GLAD FOR THEM?

HER BODY IS REJEC-TING ME
NATALIA IS STILL IN LOVE WITH THAT MAN
SHE LOVES HIM ALONE

A DEEP RIVER SEPARATES US.
Yakovlev's
IT'S AN ANONYMOUS LETTER.
WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD SEND SUCH AN INSULT?
I SEE ...
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
YOU HAVE AN IDEA WHO DID IT?
YES, FROM THE START.
THE SAME THING ARRIVED AT MY HOUSE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS FILTHY AND I BURNED IT.
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU, VYAZEMSKY.
THIS IS AN EXPENSIVE FOREIGN PAPER.
IT'S TOO LUXURIOUS TO USE EVEN AT AN EMBASSY...
IT'S TOO THOUGHT-OUT TO BE A SIMPLE SLANDERER
NO DOUBT IT'S SOME BOURGEOIS WHO EXCELS AT STRATEGY
HE HAS GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF THE OLD GOSSIP
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S SOMEONE OLD?
YAKOVLEV, YOU WORK IN A PRINTING BUREAU
YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THIS, AREN'T YOU?
LET ME SEE

HE HID BEHIND THE NAME OF THE TSAR, WHO IS IN A POSITION WHERE NO ONE WOULD DARE COMPLAIN.
IT CAN ONLY BE BARON HEECKEREN.
I SUSPECT THAT D'ANTHÈS IS THE ONE WHO IS TRULY AT FAULT, SO IT MUST BE SOMEONE PROTECTING HIM.
I WON'T FORGIVE THEM.
I WON'T HAVE A MOMENT'S PEACE SO LONG AS THEY ARE STILL THERE.
I MUST ERASE THEM.
FROM OUR LIVES

PUSHKIN...
5th of November
Dutch Embassy
WHY?
HOW DID HE KNOW IT WAS ME?
I THOUGHT IT OUT THOROUGHLY.
HOW DID HE FIGURE IT OUT SO FAST?
HEECKEREN...
THIS DUEL WILL BE A FIGHT TO THE DEATH.
IT'S WHAT YOU FEARED MOST
THE WORST SITUATION
dirty
HE'S CHALLENGED
GEORGES TO A DUEL!!

6th of November
IT'S A TERRIBLE OPPONENT.
MRS. Z. GRYAZHSKAYA, I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE.
I CAME RUNNING FROM TSARSKOYE SELO..
WE WERE WAITING IMPATIENTLY FOR YOU, ZHUKOVSKY.
IS HEECKEREN HERE?

A DUEL
HE IS NOT A RUSSIAN, SO HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND PUSHKIN'S ACHIEVEMENTS FOR OUR COUNTRY.
UNTIL NOW HIS OPPONENTS APOLOGIZED AND IT NEVER WENT BEYOND THAT
THIS TIME HIS OPPONENT IS A FOREIGNER!
THAT'S WHY YOU MUST PERSUADE HIM TO WITHDRAW HIS CHALLENGE!
ONE OF THEM...
IS GOING TO DIE!
SASHA AND...
SERGEY PUSHKIN.

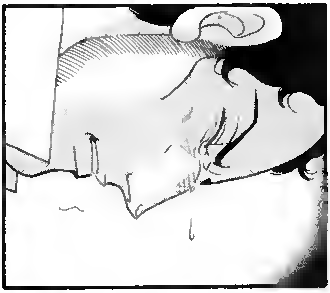
I CAN'T STAND IT
WHY?
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO END LIKE THIS?
Shell
EH?
I'M ZHUKOVSKY, I WILL BE A WITNESS TO THIS DUEL.
I HAVE A REQUEST
PUSHKIN CHALLENGED GEORGES D'ANTHES, SO
AMBASSADOR HEECKEREN,

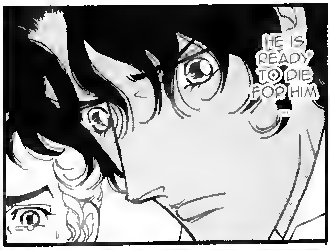
WITHDRAW YOUR CHALLENGE!
IF YOU WILL NOT NOT...
HOWEVER, IF MY SON'S BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS YOUR WIFE HAS OFFENDED YOU, THEN I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY!
I DID NOT WRITE YOU ANY ANONYMOUS LETTER!
AND HE IS WHAT I MOST LOVE IN THIS WORLD!
IT WILL BE A DEFINITE BLOW TO MY CAREER AS A DIPLOMAT...
BUT DON'T DUEL MY SON!!
THEN DUEL ME INSTEAD OF GEORGES!!
IF BY ANY CHANCE HE LOSES HIS LIFE IN THE DUEL, I COULDN'T GO ON BREATHING

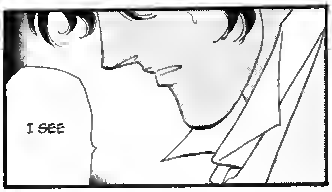
AND UNTIL THE DUEL WITH ME IS OVER, I REQUEST THAT YOU DO NOT LET HIM KNOW THAT I ACCEPTED THE DUEL IN HIS PLACE!!
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW OF THE CHALLENGE!!
HE IS NOW ATTENDING TO HIS MILITARY DUTIES.
I HAVE MUCH BUSINESS TO SETTLE.
TAKING THAT INTO ACCOUNT, PLEASE POSTPONE THE DECISION FOR A WEEK!

OH!
THANK YOU, MR. PUSHKIN!!

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I WILL GIVE YOU TWO WEEKS.
PUSHKIN!




HE IS READY TO DIE FOR HIM.

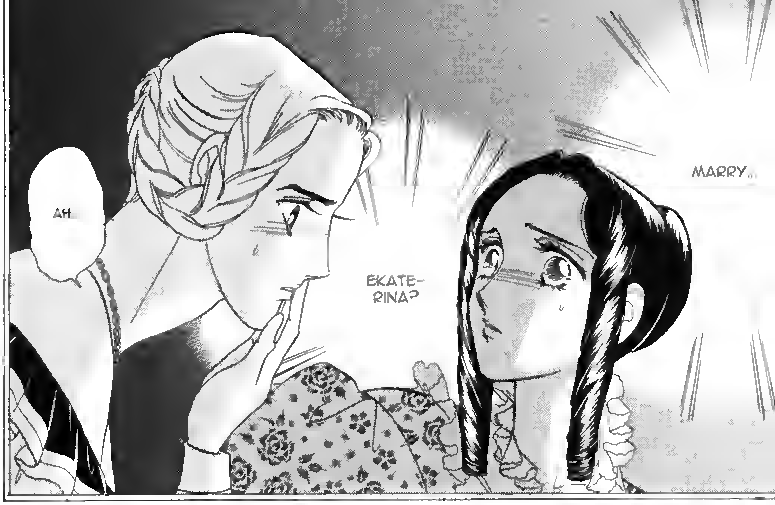

I SEE

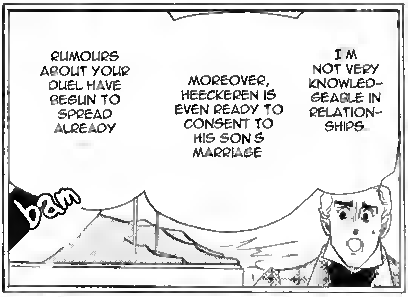
I HAVE A CHANCE TO DEVISE A PLAN
HE HAS BEEN LENIENT
PUSHKIN! I'M DEEPLY MOVED BY YOUR NOBILITY
LET'S PONDER THE SITUATION CALMLY
ZHUKOVSKY,
I ONLY TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD GIVE HIM TWO WEEKS
9th of November
WHAT I WANT IS A DUEL WITH D'ANTHES
LIVING OR DYING DOESN'T MATTER
I WANT TO FEEL RELIEVED BY SETTLING THIS MATTER QUICKLY
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES
I HAVE TO PREVENT THE DUEL FROM HAPPENING AT ALL COSTS
Dutch Embassy
WELCOME BACK, MR D'ANTHES
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED!
COME TO THE AMBASSADOR'S STUDY!

MISS EKATE-RIN...
MRS. PUSHKIN'S SISTER
WEDDING?
WHAT DID YOU SAY? TELL ME ONE MORE TIME
A DUEL?
TO WHOM?

THE DAY BEFORE YESTER-DAY,
I MADE A PROPOSITION TO ZHUKO-VSKY, THE MEDIATOR.
I TOLD HIM "THE ONE MY SON REALLY LOVES AND WANTS TO MARRY IS HER SISTER."
"IT WAS ALL A MISUNDERSTAN-DING, SO IF THEY GET MARRIED, COULD YOU MAKE PUSHKIN WITHDRAW THE CHALLENGE?"
Y- YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BLAME ME!
YOU ARE THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS!
...
HOW DARE YOU-
SAY SUCH NON-SENSE
SINCE THE MOMENT THE CHALLENGE ARRIVED,
I HAVE SPENT TWO DAYS AND NIGHTS THINKING THO-ROUGHLY OF A WAY TO AVOID THE DUEL!
THIS FARCE IS THE ONLY OPTION.
WHAT'S MORE, THAT SOFT-HEARTED ZHUKOVSKY BELIEVED MY WORDS
HE WENT TO SPEAK WITH PUSHKIN WITH GREAT JOY-

YOU SAY THAT D'ANTHES WANTS TO MARRY EKATE-RINA?


AH...
EKATE-RINA?
MARRY...


RUMOURS ABOUT YOUR DUEL HAVE BEGUN TO SPREAD ALREADY
MOREOVER, HEECKEREN IS EVEN READY TO CONSENT TO HIS SON'S MARRIAGE
I'M NOT VERY KNOWLED-GEABLE IN RELATION-SHIPS...
bam

HE DIDN'T DO IT BEFORE BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID OF BEING REJEC-TED DUE TO THEIR DIFFERENT BACK-GROUNDS. BUT HE FEELS THAT NOW AT LAST HE MAY BE ALLOWED
D'ANTHES HAS WANTED TO ASK FOR EKATERINA'S HAND IN MARRIAGE FOR A LONG TIME
HEECKE-REN SAID THAT...
AND YOU BELIEVED THAT BIG LIE?

I PITIED HIM,
BUT THAT DAMN DIPLOMAT MADE UP A CRAPPY STORY!

I INTENDED TO DUEL D'ANTHES FAIR AND SQUARE!
I THOUGHT ...
AT LEAST HE LOVED MY WIFE EARNESTLY!
NOW IT TURNS OUT..
HE IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EKATERINA'S FEELINGS
HE IS TRYING TO ESCAPE THE DUEL BY TAKING REFUGE UNDER A WOMAN'S SKIRT
I'M GOING
TO KILL HIM FOR SURE
D'ANTHES DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING YET,
PUSHKIN
BUT HE HAS AGREED TO THE MARRIAGE THAT HIS FATHER HAS ARRANGED FOR HIM!
IT'S THE SAME THING!!

I WILL DEFEAT THAT BEAST...
WHO DOESN'T KNOW..
THE MEANING OF HONOUR!!
FOR THAT REASON!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
startle
SHOULDN'T CONTEST
...
GEORGES D'ANTHES, I
WAS THE ONE TO WRITE THAT ANONYMOUS LETTER TO PUSHKIN!

I WILL DUEL.
I WAS PREPARED FOR THIS DAY TO COME SOONER OR LATER,
SO...
ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
THESE PAST TWO DAYS, ZHUKOVSKY AND I HAVE MOVED HEAVEN AND EARTH TO PERSUADE PUSHKIN,
NOW FINALLY THERE'S A CHANCE HE'LL WITHDRAW THE CHALLENGE.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MARRY EKATERINA!
I DON'T HAVE FREEDOM IN MY LIFE
NOT EVEN FREEDOM TO LOVE...
THERE IS NO FREEDOM...
Pulls
!

PEOPLE WHO PURSUE IT ARE PUNISHED.
REMEMBER THAT WELL!!
THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK IN THIS WORLD

SASHA IS GOING TO DIE? OR GEORGES D'ANTHES?

IS HE GOING TO MARRY EKATERINA?
THERE ARE ONLY THREE OPTIONS.
THREE O'CLOCK
Dang
I WOULD HAVE MET HIM
TODAY, AT THIS TIME!
IF THINGS HADN'T TURNED THIS WAY...

Oper
I WAS WAITING,
THINKING THAT PERHAPS YOU WOULD REALIZE THE TIME
YES.

ONLY ABSURD THINGS...
IN A LITTLE LESS THAN A WEEK,
SO MUCH HAS HAPPE-NED
...
MARRY EKATE-RINA
SHE IS A GOOD PERSON
I WON'T
I CAN'T LIVE A LIE MY WHOLE LIFE
NO!
I CHOOSE TO DUEL.
IT'S MY LAST PIECE OF PRIDE
YOU MAY DIE
OR MAYBE BOTH OF YOU
PUSHKIN MAY DIE
I COULDN'T BEAR IT!!

PLEASE...
I BEG YOU...
PLEASE...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME
open
GO HOME
OUR TALK IS OVER

HE IS GOING TO DIE .
NO...
FAREWELL, MY BE-LOVED
SURELY,
YOUR HUSBAND WILL RETURN TO YOU, ALIVE
DOES THAT MEAN
IF THINGS ARE GOING TO END THAT WAY, I'D RATHER
IN THE DUEL?
RATHER ...

NO.
NATALIE...
COME ON...
RUN AWAY WITH ME.
RIGHT NOW.
LET'S GO ABROAD. ANYWHERE IS FINE.

RATTLE
NATA
NATALIA?
DON'T YOU KNOW WHERE NATALIA IS?
NO idea

NATA-
LIA?
RATTLE
RATTLE
„WHERE ON
EARTH ARE
YOU GOING
NOW?

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